



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#22
Ref for Recor
N Nguyen
12-20-2

In re application of

Confirmation No. 9958

Masamichi NAKASHIBA et al.

Docket No. 2000-0722

Serial No. 09/589,388

Group Art Unit 3723

Filed June 8, 2000

Examiner George Nguyen **RECEIVED**

APPARATUS FOR AND METHOD FOR
POLISHING WORKPIECE

NOV 26 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of July 24, 2002, and pursuant to the interview with Examiner Nguyen on November 6, 2002, Applicants in the above-referenced U.S. patent application hereby request reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action.

INTERVIEW OF NOVEMBER 6, 2002

The Examiner is thanked for his courtesy in granting and conducting the further interview with Applicants and their representative on November 6, 2002. The interview was productive in helping to clarify the issues in this application, especially in that the Examiner indicated that all of the independent claims appear to distinguish over the cited prior art patent to Hoshizaki et al. '530 and that agreement was reached with respect to the claims.

The substantive arguments presented during the interview are set forth below, distinguishing the claims over the Hoshizaki et al. patent. The Examiner further went on to indicate during the interview that the Office Action of July 24, 2002 was intended to be non-final.

While the Examiner indicated that all of the independent claims appear to distinguish over Hoshizaki et al. '530, the Examiner indicated that a further search and consultation with another